

SACRED DANCE GUILD NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT: MRS. ROBERT SONEN (PAT), 47 CLEVELAND STREET, ORANGE, NEW JERSEY.

EDITOR: MRS. WALTER A. TAYLOR (MARGARET FISK), 7 FORT STREET, ATHENS, OHIO.

SEND \$3.00 ANNUAL DUES (PAYABLE EACH FEBRUARY) TO MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN, MRS. ORION SHERWOOD, 530 RIVERDALE AVE., YONKERS, N. Y. THE DUES COVER THE SUBSCRIPTION TO THE THREE ISSUES OF THIS NEWSLETTER IN APRIL AND SEPTEMBER, 1966, AND IN JANUARY, 1967. YOUR \$3.00 MUST BE PAID IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTERS.

April, 1966

GREETINGS FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT, PAT SONEN:

On the day that I was five, I blew the candles on my birthday cake and wished it would be that I could always dance. I am dancing yet.

Along with this everpresent interest in my life was a companion for which I can trace no beginning - a search for meaning, "a-making-religion-come-alive" in my life.

It was an unforgettable event some years ago when these two great interests joined hands and became one, and I have had a love affair with the results ever since: SACRED DANCE!

As I sit here today considering the opening of another year for the Sacred Dance Guild and my role as president, I think of all of you who share my love for chancel dance, religious dance, or whatever we each might call it. I think of the different styles we bring to it, the individual religious emphasis, the youthful and mature dance interpretation and am moved by the exciting kaleidoscope of movement we are!

But when I think of you, I must go further in my thinking into the future with the expansive question of "Whither do we Sacred Dancers go?" We must explore our future together, we must come together for helps, inspiration and sharing. When we come together at workshops, institutes or visit each other locally, we get a special kind of support, a surge of new ideas, sometimes a problem solved and certainly a rededication to the sacred dance. Let us turn to each other more and more, the professionally trained helping the amateur, the confident encouraging the shy, the knowledgeable encouraging the newcomer. And it is my hope we have greater communication with the clergy, that they might find more and extensive ways to use our talents, and that we might be led to new and more meaningful dance material through them.

My specific goals for 1966-67 have shaped themselves from your voices at the Annual Meeting, the Newsletter and replies to the recent Questionnaires, so that the following are listed:

1. Promote Dance Workshops in Regional and Local areas over the continent, where our members live.
2. Through extensive National Publicity expand the use of Sacred Dance and attract more dancers and persons who move creatively to become active in our Guild.
3. Take steps to move the Annual Meeting (now in February) to other locales and perhaps on other dates from year to year, so that more members may participate in the shaping of our course.

(over)

I feel if these three goals can be accomplished we will have made a major breakthrough. Already there are committees at work on all these items, as well as program planning.

To each of you I would say, do come to the June Institute. There will indeed be something for everyone, and such a personal treat!

Salute with me for one moment, the New Board Members, what a combined wealth of talent! And the Newsletter Editor and her incomparable service, and too, salute the Outgoing Workers who have left part of themselves in our heritage.

The promise of an exciting year ahead makes me feel like - well - dancing!

Cheers!

Pat Sonen

A few Biographical items about Pat Sonen:

New address: 65 Forrest Hill Road, West Orange, New Jersey

Married to the Reverend Robert W. Sonen, pastor of Unitarian Church of Essex County, N.J.; five children, two grandchildren.

Current Activities: Dir. for two N.J. Sacred Dance Choirs, Presents Sacred Dances, Conducts Rel. Ed. Dance Workshops, and Creative Worship Workshops for churches and religious groups. Serves as a Director on the Board of the local YWCA and Program Chairman for Church Women's Group.

Hobbies: Dancing, writing, gourmet cooking, reading poetry, travel, and getting to know other dancers!

Author of: "Using Creative Movement in Religious Education" Beacon Press, Boston, Mass.

Was raised and lived in Opelousas, La.; Tulsa, Okla.; Miami, Fla.; and recently moved to N.J., which she says she simply loves! Has studied with many dance studios, but was most influenced by the Barbara Mettler Creative Dance Method.

* * * * * SUMMARY ON ANNUAL MEETING AND FEBRUARY WORKSHOP IN NEW YORK, N.Y.

Friday, Feb. 25 at Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive, N.Y. A remarkable meeting of persons concerned with the present activities and future possibilities: dancers, Nat'l. Council of Churches representatives, drama, music and church leaders and members of S.D. Guild. Mrs. Sonen, as chairman, encouraged expression from each of the 25 persons; so it was a stimulating sharing with deep concerns. The closing dev. meditation in mimeo form is available on request from Margaret Taylor.

Saturday, Feb. 26 at Christ Methodist Church, N.Y. Workshop led by La Meri with emphasis on the use of Hindu gesture. Also leadership by Drid Williams with emphasis on Psalm 8.

Choir from Manchester, Conn. presented "The Community of Faith" Choir led by Judy Bennett presented "Dona Nobis Pacem" and "O yes, Believe". These were appreciated and evaluated.

Closing devotions included Drid's "Invocation" and Psalm 8 (group). Annual Meeting emphases brought out in Pres. Sonen's letter (p.1).

Gratitude to Program Com.: Helen Gray, Esther Ellison, Betty Simpson. (Fuller report in next issue of N.L.)

NEW OFFICERS FOR THE SACRED DANCE GUILD ELECTED FEBRUARY 1966

President: Mrs. Robert Sonen (Pat) 65 Forrest Hill Rd., W. Orange,
New Jersey

Vice President: Mrs. Prescott Fuller (Jeanne) 18 Hickory Lane,
Darien, Conn.

Recording Secretary: Mrs. E.H. Slier (Mildred) 49 Peacock Lane,
N. Babylon, L.I., N.Y.

Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Coy L. Huffine (Virginia) 17 Taft Dr.,
Winchester, Mass.

Treasurer: Mrs. Nels Andersen (Judy) 2207 Delaware Blvd., Saginaw,
Michigan

Membership Chairman: Mrs. Orion Sherwood (Lynn) 530 Riverdale Ave.,
Yonkers, N.Y.

Program Co-Chairmen: Mrs. Noami Aleh-Leaf, 44 Atlantic Ave.,
Swampscott, Mass.
Mrs. Henry Millonig (Gladys) 89 Clinton Ave.,
Kingston, N.Y.

National Publicity Chairman: Mrs. David Bennett (Judith), 196
Main St., Cornwall, N.Y.

Regional Publicity Chairmen:

Outreach: Mrs. Wellington Tucker (Alma) 579 Teasdale Place, Bronx,
New York

Calif.: Mrs. Elyse Robert, 16906 Enchanted Pl., Pacific Palisades,
Calif.

Conn.: Mrs. Charles Baxter (Priscilla) 34 Olcott Dr., Manchester,
Conn.

Maine, N.H., Vt.: Mrs. Charles Broadbent (Evelyn) 110 Franklin
St., Concord, N.H.

Mass.: Mrs. Kendrick Sparrow (Joan) Box K, South Orleans, Mass.

Mid-West: Mrs. John Lucke (Virginia) 1156 Gladstone Dr. S.E.,
Grand Rapids, Michigan

New Jersey: Mrs. Kim Jefferson (Elizabeth) 15 Scheerer Ave.,
Newark, New Jersey

New York: Mrs. David Dexter (Jane) 90 Second Ave., Garden City,
New York

Penn.: Mrs. David Park (Avis-ann) 7043 Green St., Phila., Penna.

Directors:

1966-69 Mrs. Warren Johnson (Mary) 39 Pine St., Peterborough,
N.H.
Mrs. M. Webb Wright (Charlotte) Box 371, Woodbury, Conn.
Mr. James Henderson, 813 Columbus Ave., Boston, Mass.

1966-68 Rabbi Milton Richman, 532 Madison Ave., Scranton, Pa.
Rev. James Miller, 228 Elizabeth Ave., Elizabeth, N.J.

1966-67 Mrs. Jeanne Carruthers, Interchurch Center, 475 River-
side Dr., New York, N.Y. (Room 1930)

Editor of Newsletter: Mrs. W.A. Taylor (Margaret) 7 Fort St.,
Athens, Ohio

This elected group was nominated by the Nominating Committee:
Alma Tucker, Mary Jane Wolbers, and Elizabeth Jefferson.

PUBLICITY

NOW IS THE TIME for all those who love religious dance - in its many and varied forms - to come to the aid of the Guild and make an organized and cooperative effort to secure favorable publicity on a local level. The key to both a growth in membership and a growth in understanding of our work on the part of the public at large may well lie in this area of "public relations".

One of the Guild's major responsibilities is education - acquainting the public with the history, the re-discovery and the great potentialities of dance as a religious art form. This responsibility is one in which every Guild member may have a share, but especially those of you who are in positions of leadership.

Experienced Guild members have found that, by and large, local newspapers are keenly interested in, and receptive to, news of religious dance groups. A good initial contact is almost always the editor of religious news. Submit a well-written, concise description of your program - keep it short, please - and you're likely to see it in print. Often a local paper takes the initiative in suggesting a photograph; if not, don't be a shy violet! A forthright suggestion on your part may be all that's needed to produce an eye-catching photo of your group at work.

Oh, yes -- there's one thing more! PLEASE mention the Guild somewhere in your publicity release. The following form is usable:

(YOUR NAME) IS A MEMBER OF THE SACRED
DANCE GUILD, AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION CONCERNED
WITH THE USE OF DANCE AS A FORM OF RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION

Remember, your cooperation in this area is vital. Each publicity effort on your part is not simply publicity for your group's activity; it is also an important means of increasing public awareness and understanding of our work.

Judith Bennett
NATIONAL PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN

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REGIONAL FALL WORKSHOPS

Mary Jane Wolbers is Chairman of the Regional Workshop Development Committee. The responses to the Questionnaires will be studied by this committee and will be available to those planning to promote a regional workshop. Suggestions for procedure, material, leadership, format, goals, and area members to contact, etc., etc. will be of assistance. Mrs. Wolbers, 111 So. Green St., E. Stroudsburg, Penna.

NOW IS THE TIME to plan your fall local or regional Workshop. This is up to each region to decide - no planning from the national group just some assistance if you wish it.

Grace Methodist Church, Newburgh, N.Y. has offered to hold a NEW YORK REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON OCTOBER 22! Save that date; details will come later.

The Newsletter will list all fall Workshops if the information reaches Margaret Taylor, 7 Fort St., Athens, Ohio by September 10. So, you'll need to plan this spring if you expect anything in the fall. Study WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE DOING in this issue and invite groups in or near your area to share their works. Also, write to these members for more details than can be covered in a Newsletter issue. The Newsletter shares verbally, but the Workshops are even more valuable, because the communication is on many levels.

THE SACRED DANCE GUILD
JUNE INSTITUTE

June 21,22,23, 1966

Drew University

Madison, New Jersey

Designed for dancers, students, dance-choir directors, minsters, church youth leaders, musicians and all who are interested in dance movement as a religious expression.

THE RELIGIOUS YEAR AND THE DANCE

This theme will afford us the opportunity to explore the basic human problems and concerns as expressed in the Jewish, Christian and other eclectic religious calendars. Lectures, dialogues and discussions will be led by three clergymen of these religious orientations. Three gifted and distinguished dance teachers will indicate the possibilities for choreographic expressions derived from these religious occasions.

DANCE LEADERS

NOAMI ALEH-LEAF

Concert dancer, choreographer, teacher, costume designer, and director of the Festival Dance Company which presents Biblical dance programs as well as "Dances for the Sabbath Service". The combination of her Judaic background and dance are dynamic.

DRID WILLIAMS

Trained in four idioms: ballet, modern, East Indian and African dance. Has appeared in concerts and television and for the past three years has taught in the U. of Wisconsin Extension Dep't. of Adult Education. Has taught dance therapy. Her multi-faceted background will add new dimensions to the Institute.

JEANNE FULLER

Teacher, performer and director of the Darien Congregational Church Dance Choir of Conn. We know her best through her tireless efforts for the Guild and her imaginative planning of Institutes and Workshops as past Program Chairman.

RELIGIOUS LEADERS

THE REVEREND JAMES G. MILLER Greystone Presbyterian Church
Elizabeth, N.J.

RABBI MILTON RICHMAN Madison Avenue Temple, Scranton, Pa.

THE REVEREND ROBERT W. SONEN First Unitarian Church, Orange, N.J.

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YOU MUST REGISTER BY JUNE 10 using the registration form on the back of this sheet. This is for full time or part time attendance. A deposit of \$5.00, applicable to total fee, will reserve space for each person planning to attend. See the back side of this sheet for further information on REGISTRATION.

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

STATIONS OF INFORMATION

Resource person to give help in various areas:

Costumes, Music, Organizing a Church Choir, Space Problems

DANCE DEVOTIONS

Periods during the day when we gather for quiet reflection and experience devotional guidance through dance.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

"An Introduction to African Dance" Drid Williams

"Dances of the Bible" Noami Aleh-Leaf

Dance Choir of the First Unitarian Church,

Orange, N.J. Pat Sonen, Director

SOMETHING NEW!

Family members are invited!

Bring spouse and children to enjoy the campus facilities while you dance. Libraries, tennis, swimming or just lounge on a campus slope under the trees.

SOMETHING TRIED AND TRUE!

The inspiration and growth that comes from exploring together, sharing and learning together, and dancing together for two and a half days . . . plus the stimulation of trained leaders, both in dance and religious fields.

DIRECTIONS TO GET TO DREW UNIVERSITY IN MADISON, NEW JERSEY

We'll send you a map when your registration is received.

Via Air: Newark Airport is 15 miles south. Take public transportation to downtown Newark and then bus to Madison;

Via Bus from Newark: Public Service Bus #70 - or Lackawanna Train

Via Bus from New York City: From Port Authority Terminal - frequent bus service; time, 50 minutes

Via Car: Garden State Parkway, turning off at exit 142 onto Springfield Ave. (State Highway 24) turn right, go 17 miles. Drew is on Highway 24. Most signs indicate Morristown, so follow them.

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RATES: Guild members - \$25

Non-members - \$30

Family members \$19

Non-resident fee - \$4 per day

Single night lodging - \$3.50

Single meals available by reservation

PLEASE REGISTER THE FOLLOWING FOR THE JUNE INSTITUTE:

NAMES:

Check one of the following:

Attending Workshops Not attending

Address:

ENCLOSE \$5.00 FOR EACH PERSON AS DEPOSIT. No. of persons _____

Am't. enclosed _____

Make checks payable to the SACRED DANCE GUILD.

MAIL TO REGISTRAR: Mrs. Gladys Millonig, 89 Clinton Ave., Kingston,

Remember: By June 10.

N.Y. 12401

SCHEDULE FOR SACRED DANCE GUILD JUNE INSTITUTE June 21-23, 1966

at Drew University, Madison, New Jersey

This is your schedulo.

Bring it with you.

TUESDAY, June 21

9:30 REGISTRATION

UNIVERSITY CENTER
Room 104

Coffee-Talk-Wear you name-tag
Find your room - and hurry back!
Bring your note-book.

10:30 WELCOME by Pat Sonen; ORIENTATION
DEVOTIONS - Christian Theme

10:45 DIALOGUE:

"The Jewish Religious Calendar" Rabbi Milton Richman
"The Christian Religious Calendar" The Rev. James Miller

12:15 LUNCH (serving period ends at 12:30) CAFETERIA

1:15 UNPACK - REST - Dress for dance DORMITORIES

2:30 FUNDAMENTAL DANCE MOVEMENT Drid Williams BALDWIN GYMNASIUM

3:15 DANCE MOVEMENT DERIVED FROM THE RELIGIOUS CALENDAR

Group A. The Jewish year - Noami Aleh-Leaf
Group B. The Christian Year - Jeanne Fuller

4:15 REST or RECREATION

Pool open 4:30-5:30 (wear cap, no wool suits)
Tennis courts . . . Nature trails

6:15 DINNER (serving period ends at 6:30)

7:30 STATIONS OF INFORMATION IDEA EXCHANGE

Costumes - sketches and photos
Music, source materials, books
The organization of a church choir
Suggestion box for Workshops, Institutes
Space problems in the church

8:30 DEVOTIONS

WEDNESDAY, June 22

Dress for dance, but wear a skirt for meals.

7:00-7:45 BREAKFAST

8:15 DEVOTIONS

GYMNASIUM

8:30 FUNDAMENTAL DANCE MOVEMENT

9:15 Group B. The Jewish Year- Noami Aleh-Leaf
Group A. The Christian Year - Jeanne Fuller

10:15 Coffee break

11:00 LECTURE AND DISCUSSION

"Universal Concerns and Dance Interpretations"

The Rev. Robert Sonen

(art forms, brotherhood, social concerns in church life)

12:15 LUNCH

1:15 DANCE DEVELOPMENT OF UNIVERSAL CONCERNS

GYMNASIUM

Group A. Noami Aleh-Leaf
Group B. Drid Williams

2:45-3:15 Break

3:15 DANCE ASSIGNMENTS

GYMNASIUM

Selecting theme from Judaic

Christian

Universal concerns

Choreography for solo - duet - trio - choir - congregation

Pianist Tryggvi Bjornson will be present to assist and

accompany

4:15 REST or RECREATION

Pool is open 4:30 to 5:30

Tennis, nature trails

6:15 DINNER

7:30 SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

"An Introduction to African Dance" Drid Williams

"Dances of the Bible" Noami Aleh-Leaf

Dance Choir, First Unitarian Church,

Orange, N.J. Pat Sonen, director

THURSDAY, June 23

7:00-7:45 BREAKFAST

8:15 DEVOTIONS

8:30 FUNDAMENTAL DANCE MOVEMENT Drid Williams

9:00 DEVELOPMENT OF DANCE ASSIGNMENTS

with aid of resource teachers and Mr. Bjornson

Judaic Noami Aleh-Leaf

Christian Jeanne Fuller

Universal Concerns Drid Williams

10:00 Break

10:30 SHARING THE DEVELOPED DANCE ASSIGNMENTS

GYMNASIUM

12:00 CLOSING DEVOTIONS - SACRED DANCE THEME

12:15 LUNCH

FAREWELL

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BRING: Dance clothes with skirts to cover while on campus - casual
clothes - walking shoes - bathing suit (not wool) and cap -
notebook - tennis racket - Bible and resource books, your
photos, clippings, costumes to share with others.

NOTE: Due to the complexity of arranging an Institute, the Execu-
tive Board reserves the right to cancel the June Institute
if a minimum registration of 50 participants is not reached.

This need for a minimum registration means you must get your
reservation in before June 10. Don't delay.

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SACRED DANCE GUILD EXECUTIVE BOARD AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WILL MEET DURING THE JUNE INSTITUTE AT DREW UNIVERSITY

SUMMER CONFERENCES

9.

June 21-July 1 CREATIVE ARTS VENTURE at Tower Hill Camp, Sawyer, Mich. Course on Creative Movement. For info.: Illinois Conf., 3rd & Grant Sts., Hinsdale, Ill.

June 26-29 CLINIC IN DANCE EDUCATION FOR THE HANDICAPPED, at Univ. of Dayton. For info.: Mrs. T. Kirchmer, 204 Cushing Ave., Dayton, Ohio.

June 27-July 4 FINE ARTS WORKSHOP at Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu, N.M. Evelyn Gant: Creative movement. For info.: Write to Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu, N.M.

June 27-Aug. 22 JACOB'S PILLOW, Lee, Mass. Large faculty including Ted Shawn and Pauline Koner. For info.: Box 87, Lee, Mass.

July 5-23 TUCSON CREATIVE DANCE CENTER, 3131 N. Cherry Ave., Tucson, Ariz. Barbara Mettler: Basic course. For info.: write to above address.

July 10-Aug. 21 CONNECTICUT COLLEGE SCHOOL OF DANCE, New London, Conn. Large faculty. Write: Miss T. Weisner, Conn. College, Sch. of Dance, New London, Conn.

July 11-15 CHORISTERS GUILD SEMINAR, at Colorado Woman's College Denver, Colo. Margaret Taylor: Creative Movement. Write: Mr. Whittlesley, 440 Northlake Cr., Dallas, Texas

July 15 - for six weeks meeting once a week: SUMMER DANCE WORKSHOP in Fairfield, Conn. Louise Matlage teacher. No charge for S.D.G. members. Write: Mrs. Matlage, Brookford Farm, Westtown, Pa.

July 21-25 CAMP FARTHEST OUT, Kiyosato, Japan. Margaret Taylor: Creative movement.

Aug. 8-15 CHORISTERS GUILD SEMINAR, at Salem College, Winston - Salem, N.C. Margaret Taylor: Creative movement. Write Mr. Whittlesley, 440 Northlake Cr., Dallas, Texas.

Aug. 19-27 DRAMA WORKSHOP at Hamline Univ., St. Paul, Minn. Carolyn Bilderback: Dance For info.: Rev. J. Blaine Fister, NCC, 475 Riverside Dr., N.Y., N.Y.

Aug. 21-27 RELIGIOUS ARTS WORKSHOP at Pilgrim Haven, South Haven, Mich. Sponsored by Michigan United Church Conf. Judy and Nels Andersen: Sacred Dance Write to Nels Andersen: 2207 Delaware Blvd., Saginaw, Mich

Aug. 21-27 CREATIVE ARTS CONFERENCE in a Presbyterian Youth Camp in Oregon. Barja Nazaretiz: Dance movement Write to Miss Nazaretiz, 306 2nd Ave. N.E., Auburn, Washington.

DON'T FORGET:

June 21-23 SACRED DANCE GUILD JUNE INSTITUTE at Drew College, Madison, N.J. See the pink sheets in this issue

SUSAN LUNDBERG contributed a Wedding Dance as a prelude to the wedding of Barbara Rall and Thomas Lowrey in the Michigan State Univ. Chapel, Lansing, Mich. in February, 1966. The music was "Teleman Prelude in C Major". In a simple white gown Susan "held a lantern which she placed on the altar where she ceremoniously pantomimed a blessing on the marriage. And in the same fashion, she danced to each candle around the church and lit each from her lantern amid a hushed spellbound audience. Her dance ended with a clasp of the hands on the altar as the bride and her procession made their appearance. . . . A different kind of wedding? Perhaps. But this emphasizes the growing acceptance of the dance in church affairs of late." (From an article by Wayland Cummings in The Grand Rapids Press, Feb. 13, 1966)

NEW BOOKS AVAILABLE

La Meri: DANCE COMPOSITION: THE BASIC ELEMENTS, available thru Al Pischl, 1801 E. 26th St., Brooklyn, N.Y. \$4.95

"For the most part, the material in Dance Composition is logically organized and viable. Its first section has to do with the craft of making dances. The second part consists of inspirational essays directed to student, teacher, parents and audience.

In the chapter on teaching: 'The attitude that one teaches only if one cannot perform is idiotic. The talent for teaching is far rarer than the talent for performing for it demands greatness and selflessness of soul.'

Dance Composition is in soft cover. It has serviceable drawings by Cary, a brief list of suggested readings, but no index." (March 1966) from review in Dance Magazine by Doris Hering

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Louise Mattlage: DANCES OF FAITH, available thru The Open Book Store, Unquowa Rd., Fairfield, Conn. & Brandywine Book Shop Church St., West Chester, Pa. \$3.00

Thirty-one full page photographs with statements on Sacred Dance on the opposite pages. Valuable as background book.

Mattlage statements: "All mankind needs to communicate his inner needs and hopes to God and his fellowman. He is able to do this through vicarious participation in the great living art of dance, where he is subtly drawn into the stream of universally common feelings. . . . Dances of faith state in many ways the certainly of God's presence in us all, and it is the objective and purpose of sacred dance to thank God for his eternal goodness, to serve him and communicate this faith to others." (hard cover)

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Joan S. Johnson: WITH HEARTS AND HANDS UPLIFTED, available thru the author, 9231 Elliot Avenue South, Bloomington, Minn. 55420 \$1.00
Thirty-two mimeographed pages in soft cover.

This is "An Introduction to worship in motion and Handbook to help you start a choir in your church." For use with church groups as they start to explore motion to express ideas in worship.

Joan Johnson states: "Since interpretations are free and come from feelings conveyed by words and music, few are written down. There is danger in copying a written interpretation or one already seen as it creates a mechanical action void of personal involvement. This it may become artificial, less of a true worship experience. . . . The members cannot be self-sufficient but will need the co-operation of an accompanist, soloists, choir, financial aid for robes . . . and of the custodian".

Mrs. DeBruyn's high school group presented a very moving interpretation of "The Risen Conqueror" by Handel accompanied by the choir in their church in Zeeland. Her college group has been asked to take part in the morning chapel service on April 26 at Hope College. S.D.G. member Jean Protheroe is a member of the Choir.

JOAN SPARROW (Box K, S. Orleans, Mass.) presented A Madonna Study in the Christmas Candlelight Celebration at the First Parish in Brewster. This was a solo dance to music of three hymns arranged by Bach and Mendelssohn.

Joan also presented a dance concert following a supper sponsored by the Service Club of the Brewster Unitarian Church. The program included two things from Margaret Fisk's (Taylor's) book, "Look Up and Live": a hymn chorus and a spiritual. Joan also presented The 8th Psalm danced to the spoken word which she had put on tape.

CAROL DAVIS, director of the Motion Choir of the First Parish in Dorchester, Mass. presented "I Wonder as I Wander" in the regular Sunday morning service before Christmas. The ten girls moved up the side aisles, across the chancel, making a double line, then down center in pairs . . . also moving within the pattern.

To celebrate the anniversary of the 1630 founding of the First Parish Church in Dorchester on March 27, Carol B. Davis with the Motion Choir presented "The Pilgrim Story" at their morning service. This was in three sections: "The Separation", "The Voyage", and "The Arrival". Each section was preceded by the Reverend James K. Allen reading passages from Bradford of the Plymouth Plantation. Eight girls were robed in deep blue with Pilgrim caps and yoke collars in white. The moods of the three sections were: pleading, despair, and then resignation; fear of the journey; wonder and a variety of attitudes in facing the new world.

Note: The organ accompaniment from Dvorak's "New World Symphony" has been taped, and so, with space permitting, this work may be presented elsewhere.

MRS. ALLEN HOLLIS, director of the Sacred Dance Choir of the Central Congregational Church of Fall River, Mass., participated in a series of Inter-faith Lenten Services sponsored by the Fall River Council of Churches. They also presented "The Palms" by Faure at the First Baptist Church on April 3, Palm Sunday.

MRS. CAROL TAYLOR, director of the Sacred Dance Group of the First Parish Church of Arlington assists in an Area Arts Festival sponsored by the Mass. Bay District of the UUA held at Cambridge Unitarian Church on April 24 at 4 P.M. Her Sacred Dance Choir will combine with other teenage groups from Concord and Medford to present "Give Me Your Tired and Your Poor" from "The New Colossus". The Winchester Choir will present "Turn Back, O Man" confronting selfishness and greed in Man. In the second stanza they turn from the negative qualities to those of brotherhood and end in a circle. The Winchester Choir will also present "Let My People Go" with words and music devised by Robert Storer.

VIRGINIA HUFFINE, director of the Winchester Unitarian Choir. will repeat the April 24 Program in Cambridge on Sunday, May 1 at a regional Choir Festival at the Unitarian Church in Worcester, Mass.

PAT SONEN with her group presented special Lenten services for the First Lutheran Church of East Orange, N.J. and the Poughkeepsie Unitarian Fellowship, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. The services entitled "Men Hunger for Meanings" used poetry readings, song with guitar, and sacred dance. A jazz selection was choreographed as "Man's Search through three Stages" and danced by a teenage dance choir. Marilyn Loupus sang with guitar "Journey Home" as Pat Sonen presented a stool-dance interpretation. Katharine Bjornson danced, "Seek Ye the Lord" and St. Francis of Assisi.

At the Easter Sunday morning service the Unitarian Cherry Hill Sacred Dance Choir, Cherry Hill, N.J., under the direction of Pat Sonen presented an adaptation of "Renascence" by Edna St. Vincent Millay. The poem was read with violin and flute accompaniment. Gladys Kanter is a member of this Sacred Dance Choir.

JUDITH A. BENNETT, 196 Main St., Cornwall, N.Y., reports "The Passion" as presented by the Dance Choir of the Cornwall Methodist Church for the Grace Methodist Church Women in Newburgh, N.Y. on April 5:

"The music for "The Passion" is a collection of lauds: The Kiss of Judas, Flagellation, crucifixion, Lament of Mary, Invocation Praise of the Cross, The Resurrection, The Ascension. The lauds were popular traditional religious songs that originated in Italy in the 13th century. They form a kind of folk drama on the life of Jesus.

"The Dance Choir of the Cornwall Methodist Church devotes itself to the study and use of dance as a religious art. It is our effort to dedicate time and talent to the service of God and man."

Judith Bennett with S.D.G. member Norma Blohm and three other young women of her church, Cornwall Methodist Church, took part in the Tenebrae Service for Good Friday presenting "Adoramus Te." by Palestrina and "O Sacred Head" by Bach.

Judy Bennett and Betty Dean Hydon, co-directors of the Wesleyan Dancers, Grace Methodist Church, Newburgh, N.Y., are presenting for District Meeting of the W.S.C.S. the Processional: "Praise to the Lord" and the Benediction: "Dona Nobis Pacem". S.D.G. member Wendy Hartman (Sloatsburg, N.Y.) is one of the 3 members of this group. This program is being presented at St. Paul's Methodist Church in Middletown, N.Y. on April 19.

MRS. MAXINE DE BRUYN, director of the Hope Church Rhythmic Choir in Holland, Mich. has presented two programs in the Community Church in Saugatuck, one on the World Day of Prayer, February 25 and again on March 20; a program for the Hope Women's Guild on March 16, to be repeated in Grand Rapids at the Central Reformed Church on April 6. Her group performs for the Hope College Faculty women on April 21; for a Mothers and Daughters Banquet at the Catholic Church on May 16 and for a meeting of the Business and Professional Women of Muskegon on May 29. Selections to be presented include:

"The Lord's Prayer"

"The Three Marys" to the hymn "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

"The Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi"

"A Hebrew Chant" in the form of a round:

"And every man 'neath his vine and fig tree shall live in peace
and unafraid.

And into plow-shares turn their swords; Nations shall learn war
no more."

NOAMI ALEH-LEAF AND THE FESTIVAL DANCE COMPANY will present a concert of religious dance as part of the Annual Religious Arts Festival sponsored by Old South Church, Copley Square, Boston, Mass. on April 17 at 7 P.M. The dances are accompanied by piano, flute, and drum and are based on themes of near Eastern and Biblical life. Her program: "Pilgrimage", "Awake, O Zion", "Song of Praise", "Hagar in the Wilderness", "At the Well"; from the Book of Proverbs "Hear, My Son" and "Wisdom Crieth Aloud"; and excerpts from the Sabbath Service "Welcome to the Sabbath Queen", Anthem and Recessional.

Friday, April 22 at Holy Blossom Temple, Toronto: Sabbath Service by Noami Aleh-Leaf and the Festival Dance Company.

Saturday, April 23 - Concert in Toronto of Dances of the Bible and the Near East by Noami Aleh-Leaf and Company.

Friday, April 29 at 8 P.M. at Temple Beth Shalom, Needham, Mass. Noami and the Dance Company will present a Sabbath Service.

Friday, May 6 at 8 P.M. at Temple Isaiah, Lexington, Mass. Noami and the Dance Company will present a Sabbath Service.

MRS. DAVID YOH AND MRS. MARTIN GAL, directors of the Rhythmic Choir of Mt. Hope Avenue Methodist Church presented a worship program in a series on "Christ and the Fine Arts". This was in Lansing, Michigan. The story of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Savior was portrayed on Sunday evening, March 27.

The first line on the program sheet read: "Interpreted through sacred dance, to the glory of God, and performed in the spirit of worship." Starting with the women at the tomb and recall of the confusion of the events of week with the fear and accusations, the despair and guilt leading into new insight by the women. The concluding sentence is: "Hope and a new joy are made known. There is an understanding in depth that was not possible before. The promise and joy are taken out into the world for all time."

The Edgewood United Church Rhythmic Choir of E. Lansing also took part in this worship program.

Forrest Coggan writes: "Some particularly nice moments when the dancers, carrying hanging lamps, moved throughout the chancel space, the recessed choir loft and the aisles of the sanctuary. It was the good fortune of all attending that Mrs. Gal performed the fear and sense of loss section, bringing not only the mature understanding which she possesses, but her very capable technique of dance and acting to a crucial moment which needed the extra depth. Mrs. Gal is also serving as president of the Greater Lansing Area Dance Council.

"Reverend Royal Synwolt gave a "defense" for the dance in worship and quoted freely from Margaret Fisk's (Taylor's) writings on the subject. His own clear gestures during the introductory comments and following the performance could have been justification enough. I suspect that Mt. Hope Methodist Church already has a fine dancer within the confines of that pulpit. Reverend Synwolt is to be commended for his part in the planning of the "Christ and the Arts" series.

"A third dance choir exists in Lansing. Formed about 6 years ago by Mrs. Ivan Christian, it has been revived and is active at Calvary Evangelical United Brethren Church."

Forrest Coggan, Visiting Artist-Lecturer in Theater,
Ohio University, Athens, Ohio
(In Lansing during spring vacation)

MRS. JOAN S. JOHNSON, 9231 Elliot Ave., So. Bloomington, Minn., director of the House of Prayer Lutheran Church Worship Choir, has had a busy spring with 19 appearances in Minneapolis and suburban churches between January and May. Among her interpretations are "Kyrie Christe" (French Carol), "Magnificat (Lutheran Liturgical Setting)", "Did Mary Know?" Avorre, "Prayer of St. Francis". One special service entitled "One Solitary Life" follows through the Liturgical Church year.

Joan's Choir has 13 girls and 4 boys in its membership. She has had boys participating over a number of years and they carry strong parts with actions that contrast those of the girls. She writes: "Our boys wear purple jerkins worn over white shirts with dark trousers. The purple color was chosen as it is the liturgical color for Advent and Lent, times when we do most of our work."

WITH HEARTS AND HANDS UPLIFTED is the title of her manual written to assist the starting of worship choirs. It has resource material and 9 simple interpretations are described. It is available through her for \$1.00.

A Twin Cities Worship Choir Workshop was held on January 17. Besides Joan's group there were the Motion Choir from Salem Lutheran with Dorcus Bendix as director, presenting "Birth" from Sateren's "Redeemer Cycle"; Luther Memorial (John Mattson, dir.) presenting "Not Alone for Mighty Empire"; St. Stephen's Choir (Deanne Tuinder, dir.) presenting "Were You There?". The next meeting of this group will be on April 25 at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Bloomington, Minn.

"Los Seises" taped from a TV program on June 17, 1965 danced by the Andahazy Ballet Borealis Company of Minnesota before the altar of the St. Paul Cathedral in Minneapolis. The film is to be available through NET. Although research had been made on the dance of the "Seises" in the Cathedral of Seville, Spain, originating in the 15th Century, the presentation is adapted by the company's director, Anna Adrianova (Mrs. Andahazy). The Twin Cities Workshop viewed the film at their Jan. Meeting.

BETTY SIMPSON, PRISCILLA BAXTER AND SHIRLEY STAGER, directors of Center Congregational Church, Manchester, Conn. Rhythmic Choirs with both high school and adults presented their annual service for Palm Sunday. This time the service was in two parts: THE GOOD NEWS (God so loved . . .) with the Triumphal Entry, "The March to Calvary" (Mauder), "Were You There" and "Galilean Easter Carol" (Shure) interpreted by the H.S. Rhythmic Choir. In the "March to Calvary" there were the three Marys, women, soldiers, mob - - and Jesus, carrying the cross, was "created" by the focus of the different characters on the otherwise empty space in the procession. In the second part: AND WHAT OF YOU? the interpretations were by the adult choir. "Is it News?", "Is it Good?", "The Community of Faith" (Where two or three . . .) were largely to original writing by Betty Simpson. "The Lord's Prayer" (Robertson) was interpreted by the H.S. Choir. This original work by Mrs. Simpson should be made available for more choirs.

These choirs have given services in Mansfield, Glastonbury, E. Granby, S. Glastonbury, and W. Hartford, Conn.

In the near future a service for Episcopal Women, Newington, and on Sunday evening, May 1, in Andover, Conn.

LETICIA JAY and her West-East Dancers appeared at the Riverside Church Chapel on Feb. 13. They offered excerpts from "The Alpha and The Omega" with choreography and arrangement of tapes by Miss Jay, using Hindu and Jazz music. There are five men in this group. Leticia Jay (10 E. 85th St., N.Y., N.Y.) is a sponsor of our Guild.

HELEN GRAY (Mrs. H.D.) 277 Main St., Hartford, Conn. and the Motion Choir of the South Congregational Church, Hartford, Conn. presented (1) a Lenten Program on March 1 for the South Congregational Women in which there were presented "I Wonder as I Wonder" with the answer "God so loved . . .". The program combined scripture, spoken narrative, music and visual interpretation.

(2) a program for Senior Citizens on March 14 in which there was an added scene with children and concluding with "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" with Helen's substitute for the closing stanza:

"My life I give to thee to serve humanity, Master and Friend;
As thou hast lived for me, so may my life serve thee
Then will we here below one Father know."

(3) a program on April 13 for a Mother-Daughter Banquet at Central Baptist Church in Hartford which will include "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty", "Psalm 8" by Sandra Sommerville (as taught by Drid Williams at the S.D.G. Feb. Workshop) and "The Creation" read and interpreted by Ethel Grady.

TONI' INTRAVAIA (201 Hewitt, Carbondale, Ill.), dir. of the Modern Dance Club at So. Ill. University and advisor for the Wesley Motion Choir, reports:

Jan. 31 Modern Dance Club presented Doris Humphrey's "Shakers" with lecture and history of the sect for Carbondale High School.

Feb. 13 Wesley Motion Choir presented a section of the worship service with "One Candle". The congregation participated.

Feb. 24 For the Children's Concert Series, Toni danced "Ora Pro Nobis" with Southern Illinois University Choir.

May Wesley Motion Choir will again present a worship service.

BARBARA BEACH and LUCY HARRINGTON of the Marblehead Unitarian Church, Marblehead, Mass. presented a program on "Exploring Religious Dance" on April 1 with their Liturgical Dance Choir for the First Baptist Church Festival of Arts in Beverly, Mass. The program opened with a lecture-demonstration which had also been presented in their Unitarian Church. Then followed four dances based on passages from the Gospel of Mark; they were "Triumphal Entry", "Fear and Accusation", "Lamentation" and "The Constant Faith". Music was of the sarabande and pavane; they were robed in leotards, tights and ankle-length skirts.

LYNN SHERWOOD, 530 Riverdale Ave., Yonkers, N.Y., presented "This is Good Friday" at both the College of St. Vincent (Roman Catholic) where Lynn teaches dance, and at her own church, Riverdale Presbyterian Church in Yonkers. Employing music, dance and the spoken word, the service is an expression of man's involvement in and response to the Crucifixion; it includes "The Judas Kiss", "Jesus' Consent to Die", "The Thirst", "The Descent". The minister, Julian D. Wick, worked with Lynn in this creative work.

In the printed service there was stated: "In each generation, man has needed to recreate through art this event of Christ's death on the cross in order to comprehend more fully its incredible significance in his own life." The service was received well in both places.

MRS. HAROLD N. WILLARD, JR. director of the North Springfield, Vt. Rhythmic Choir in the Baptist Church has a new choir which started at Christmas with a program. They have participated in morning and evening worship on Feb. 27 and March 21 and have been invited to present a worship service for the Vermont State Baptist Convention on April 30. Joan Willard writes: "Mrs. Warren Johnson met with us and gave us most welcome suggestions and a great deal of inspiration!"

MRS. BOHDAN KLAWE, 21 Highland Court, Huntington, L.I., N.Y. 11743, directs the RAGA DANCERS who present two kinds of programs: "for a conventional church service in lyrical modern form; or of sacred dances of India with lecture material." They are open to invitations in the North Shore area of Long Island.

JOAN BARE, (Mrs. Thomas) 1970 71st Ave., Phila., Pa. was invited to use the 20 minute sermon period in the morning worship on Jan. 16 at Cumberland St. Methodist Church in Philadelphia. She spoke on worship thru motion and presented "The Lord's Prayer" and "The Creation". On Jan. 23 she led a workshop for Sunday School teachers at Grace Methodist Church in Philadelphia.

JOYCE PALMER FULLER presented "Hope, Doubt and Affirmation" at the Unitarian Church of Concord, N.H. on March 20. From a statement of concern about what is experienced, then a depiction of the human condition (confusion, insecurity, despair) and growing into an affirmation of hope, Joyce used the music of Villa Lobos' "Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5."

BETTY DEAN HYDON, director of a new group, the Dance Choir of the Mountainville Methodist Church (Mountainville, N.Y.) presented a Holy Week program for the Women of the church. She told of the background of Sacred Dance, then continued with a service of worship which included "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring", an invocation in dance, "I Wonder as I Wander", "Were you There?", and as a benediction, "Dona Nobis Pacem". The group was robed in black for "Were you There" and at other times wore purple stoles in keeping with the season of Lent.

MRS. KATHARINE RUITERS, Pecksland Rd., Greenwich, Conn., has presented programs at St. Barnabas Hospital, Braker Home and in other hospitals as recreational therapy. Among her works are "The Lord's Prayer", "Agnus Dei" by Bizet and "Te Deum" by Berlioz.

JANE DEXTER, dir. of the Sacred Dance Choir of the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Central Nassau (Garden City, L.I.) is presenting "Dedication" based on a prayer of Socrates: "Give me beauty in the inward soul; and may the outward and the inward man be at one." Music and words are by the Church's choir director, Richard Barry. Robes are long, Grecian in style and of red jersey.

JEAN SAUNDERS, of Weston, will conduct a Movement Workshop on Saturday, April 23 at the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Springfield, Mass. The Workshop will be a Get-Together for young people of New England sponsored by Liberal Religious Groups of the U-U Churches. She will show how to introduce movement and dance into worship presentation.

DOROTHY HENDERSON, dir. of the Rhythmic Choir of 1st Congregational Church (Blue Hill, Maine) presented "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" in her church during Lent.

WHAT ARE MEMBERS ARE DOING (continued)

ESTHER ELLISON reports from the Universalist Church of W. Hartford, Conn. the activities of their dance choir:

- Feb. 4 "Prayer of St. Francis" as the Prayer at both services on Sunday
- Feb. 19 Presentation at a Junior Choir Workshop in Amherst, Mass. Sponsored by the Conn. Valley Junoir Choir Choristers.
- Apr. 17 The "Prayer of St. Francis" at a joint service of their church and the young priests from Holy Name Monastery.
- Apr. 10 "O Life that maketh all things new" (Samuel Longfellow).
- Feb. 19 Dara was born to Beverly and Norman Hall! Beverly Hall is the dance choir director.

JUDY AND NELS ANDERSEN, (1st Congregational Church, Saginaw, Mich.) were invited to the First Methodist Church, LaPorte, Ind. to lead "A Lenten Service in Sacred Dance." Working with Reverend Harold Ping in this church, we asked for a group of young people to assist us in the service. When we arrived we found three H.S. girls and three H.S. boys - one a member of the track team and one a member of the football team. We worked with the six the entire evening before our service and the afternoon before. We have never worked with such a responsive group. We hope to see some of them at our Fine Arts Conf. this summer. ~~The boys want to continue the group in their church.~~

That evening in La Porte, we presented some in lecture background interspersed with:

"All Glory Laud and Honor" Judy and group

"Once to Every Man and Nation" Judy and Nels "We asked the people to note the symbolism of the passing of time in our lives and the struggle between good and evil which goes on all around us."

Spirituals and "Creation" (Johnson) in "God's Trombones" Judy & Nels We concluded with the dancers interpreting the benediction, shared by Virginia Lucke with us after the Feb. workshop - the "Peace Gesture". The congregation was then asked to join in this "benediction in movement."

"A rewarding experience, especially in learning that before the service there had been definite opposition to the idea!"

MRS. ROBERT (Karen) DOOLEN, 2827 Lyndale Lane, Billings, Montana, director of the Rhythmic Choir of the 1st Congregational Church, has presented selections from the 20th Century Folk Mass (Gloria, Our Father, Preface and Sanctus) for special services and in the Sunday morning service. She hopes to interpret the whole recording next year. (This is available thru your record stores)

MRS. CORRINE LEHTO, 1280 S. Knox Ct., Denver, Colo., director of Brentwood Sacred Dance Choir of the Brentwood Methodist Church. They presented programs which included an explanation of sacred dance for Warren Methodist Church on March 23 and for Brentwood's Sunrise Service. Among there works are: James Weldon Johnson's "The Creation", the 8th Psalm, Three Mary's at the Foot of the Cross and Bob Ashton's "Join Hands".

MARY JANE WOLBERS, E. Stroudsburg, Pa. reports that the E. Stroudsburg College is sponsoring "dance Day" with Matteo as guest dancer. In the invitation to other colleges, 5 girls are the maximum from each, but no limit for college men, for there is an effort to increase male participation. Last year, over thirty men took part in "Dance Day." This year it is on April 16.

VIRGINIA HUFFINE, 17 Taft Dr., Dir. of S.D. Choir of Winchester Unitarian Church, Winchester, Mass. reports taking part in 2 Easter Services with 13 girls in Haydn's "The Heavens are Telling", using the aisles and, in the final section, uniting in praise. Her group will be active in the regional choir festival at Cambridge Unitarian Church and on May 1 at Worcester, Mass. on April 24

DOROTHY JOHNSON, faculty dir. and JUDY LEHMAN, student dir. at Hood College, Frederick, Md., report that the Rhythmic Choir participated in worship services for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. On April 24 the Choir will present a program showing the use of dance in worship at the conference of Disciples of Christ Churches at 1st Christian Church, Hagerstown, Md. On parents weekend in May they will present the worship service.

MARIE L. SMITH, dir. of the Rhythmic Choir of the Second Congregational Church, Holyoke, Mass., reports that their Choir highlighted the two services on March 27 as they presented "God So Loved the World" (Stainer). The girls wore white robes and purple head scarves.

LOUISE MATTLAGE, dir. of "Dancers of Faith", Westtown, PA., reports an evening program at the Trumbull United Church of Christ, Trumbull, Conn. which included Prayer (four part), Parable of Wise & Foolish Virgins, These Three, and the Lord's Prayer. This program will be presented on May 1 at the Salem Zion Lutheran Church in Philadelphia. On May 8 at the Christianna Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, Del., and on May 19 at the Stratford Cong'l. Church in Stratford, Conn. All will be in the evening. She writes: "My Conn. group and the group I work with here in the winter months represent 3 colleges and 3 states and as many faiths as dancers." (See further notices re: new book and summer conferences.)

MRS. ANDREW DELANEY, 5626 Terwilliger, Houston, Tex. 77027, is in charge of a 10 week workshop in worship thru movement at the Emerson Unitarian Church for 2 hours each week. There are 15 members.

G'ann Boyd Concert Dancers (a modern dance group of which I am a member) is presenting a program on "The Role of Dance in Worship" for Emerson Church Women, for the women students at Rice University, for the couple's club of Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church and for the Liberal Religious Youth groups of 3 Unitarian societies in Houston. After the lecture on dance in worship, the closing part had each one dancing to a piece of music or psalm that had a personal meaning. (The five are Methodist, Presbyterian, Catholic, Jew and Unitarian.) Then at the end a jazz interpretation interwove each one's symbolic movements, merging into a tapestry of beliefs and showing respect for the use of movement in communication regardless of one's personal beliefs.

MARGARET FISK TAYLOR, 7 Fort St., Athens, O. Evening Vesper at Episcopal Church, Hamilton, O. with four S.H. boys presenting "Eili, Eili" and Lord's Prayer, etc. on March 20. Shirley Fritz and her group from W. Milton contributed several selections. Mar. 23, Vesper at Otterbein College with 3 Ohio U. men students and 5 girls; Mar. 30 - program for Y.W.C.A. in Columbus, O.; April 23 Workshop in Toledo; Apr. 27 at Oberlin Sch. of Theology (chapel & classes); May 15 at Family Service 29 children in three selections in Episcopal Ch. in Athens, O.; April 8 at Athens Jr. H.S. Assembly for Good Friday Service with the O.U. group. This summer I lead Creative Arts in Japan (July 18-30) and with churches in Honolulu (Aug. 1-8)!

MATTEO in "Dance as Prayer", an exploration of gesture as a form of worship, presented on March 13 on "Lamp Unto My Feet" (cbs-tv) Comments by Forrest Coggan, guest artist in residence at Ohio Univ. Theatre, Athens, Ohio:

Closeups of beautiful hands capable of graceful gesture are certainly in the best taste of television. And these were abundantly present in the program which MATTEO presented on March 13.

MATTEO concentrated on the hands as expressive instruments and quite naturally brought to his intelligent discourse the obvious ties with the hastra mudras of India and the Delsartian observations on human behavior spiced with a few other examples from both dance and daily activity. His vocal delivery was as easy and as clearly understood as were his gestures. His choice of dark garments and a shadowed face as suitable to the vital truths revealed thru the hands alone are both to be commended.

Quite apart from his content (and the second part of the program was simply another Shiva Nataraj) the integrity of the presentation rested on the person-to-person presence successfully created by the use of several seated spectators whose upturned faces (caught momentarily in the lens) served as a well-tested bridge for the viewer-at-home. They were not present during the "Performance" portion.

* * * * *

Late notices re: What our Members are doing:

MRS. NORRIS YONKER, dir. of Rhythmic Choir of Grace E.U.b. Church Van Buren & Ellsworth, Maperville, Ill. "the poem, "The Inn of Life" was read by a professor from the seminary in Naperville. Three H.S. boys and three H.S. girls interpreted it. They wore black and purple - boys in belted tunic over turtle-neck jerseys and black slacks; girls in black robes with purple square drape. "Were You There" presented on Mar. 23 included four H.S. boys & girls."

MRS. JANE PLUM, dir. of Motion Choir of the Unitarian Church, Bloomington, Ill. 61701, reports that the choir meets once a week for training in ballet and modern dance techniques to prepare for special services. They have presented a candle processional in December and on May 15 present a Flower Service. Mr. Abram M. Plum, ass. professor of music, Ill. Wesleyan Univ., has composed the music.

* * * * *

MUSIC SELECTIONS SUGGESTED BY CLEM. BURTON, CHOIRMASTER, ORGANIST AND DIRECTOR OF MOTION CHOIR, 1st METH. CHURCH, MIDDLETOWN, OHIO

Seth Bingham: The Lord's Prayer

Don McAfee: "Lord Make me an Instrument" (St. Francis Prayer)

Ned Rorem: "Sing, My Soul, His Wondrous Love"

Howard Hanson: "O Lord, our Lord"

Tschneskoff: "Salvation is Creator"

Honegger: from King David: "Pity me Lord" & "O Shall I Lift Mine Eyes"

Robert J. Powell: "Four Psalm Preludes"

Jaromir Weinberger: "Dedications" (series on Women of the O.T.)

George McKay: "Benedictions"

WRITE TO MR. BURTON FOR MORE DETAILS: 120 S. Broad St., Middletown, Ohio

CHOREOGRAPHY by Paul Taylor (Dance Magazine, Feb. 1966)

Excerpts from insights gathered from his own work with members in his company:

"We see an individual, and we see what that individual is. All this exact training and dance stylization cannot abstract a body into a nonentity. A person is going to be revealed. Vanity, generosity, insecurity, warmth are some traits that have a way of coming into view. . . .

Because the body does not lie, people remark on the friendliness of Elizabeth Walton's dancing. She IS friendly. Her warmth, the way she goes out to people, spills over into the way she dances. Her body does not lie. . . .

These eight dancers are not exactly like tubes of paint with which to cover the canvas of space. They have character and personality, which they ASSERT. . . .

Fairly regularly, Bettie de Jong will speak of something she calls 'organic dance'. . . . She is referring to body logic or the way movements are put together so that they are joined functionally. . . . An 'un-organic' dance phrase would be one containing an extraneous movement, a foreign insertion, which prevents the body from following its natural muscular path. This insertion may seem an appropriate idea for what the choreographer is trying to say, but it remains only an idea if it does not fit into the physical logic of the phrase. It will stop the dancing. It will look false and it will usually feel false to the dancer. It is like those real plants at florists that have convincing plastic blossoms wired on. You sense there is something wrong, somewhere.

There are some dancers who achieve a kind of crystal clarity in their dancing. Perhaps it is because of clean line and precise timing. It is not usually a natural quality, but comes after years of exactitude and self-discipline. This crystal quality . . . is often coupled with a certain iciness. Though Sharon Kinney has the clarity, what makes her remarkable is that she also has warmth. She is a kind of heart-shaped crystal."

* * *

THE DARK ONE : A review of Martha Graham and Company, Nov. 2-21/65
by Doris Hering (Dance Magazine, Jan. 1966)

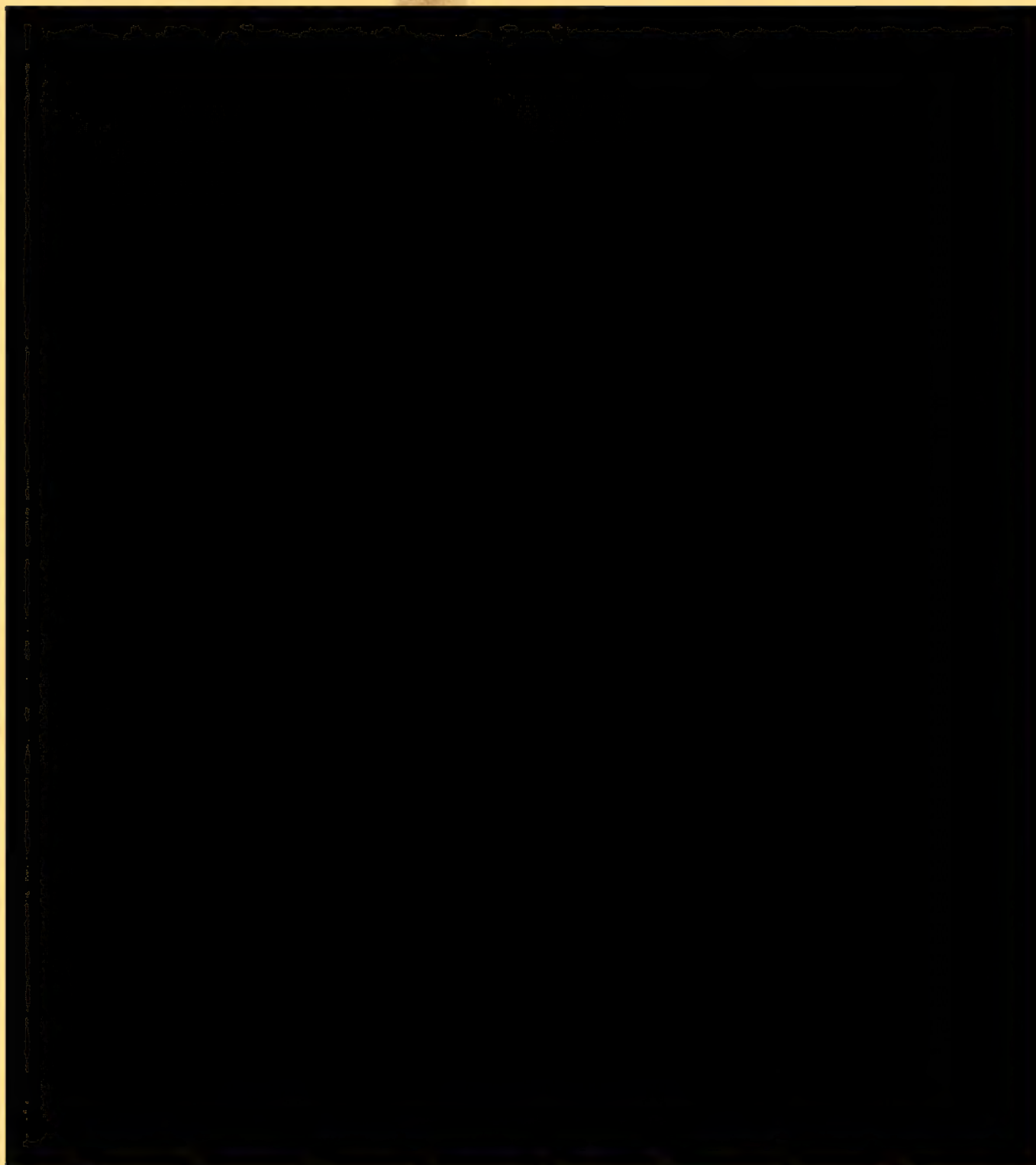
"One reason why Martha Graham is the most distinguished dance maker of our time is that she refuses to minimize the meaning of life. . . .

When she looks at love, lust lies heavily nearby. When she asserts her belief in resurrection, annihilation is also there. . . . In her art, as in life, there is no happiness unalloyed, no ecstasy without shadow.

Perhaps that is why the dance form she has evolved is so stimulating to watch. All of these pulls are in it - never haphazardly, but with a just balance between tension and equilibrium (there is rarely full relaxation):"

Read the full article by Doris Hering in which she describes elements in The Witch of Endor and Miss Graham's insights into Saul and David; also her use of the chorus.

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